

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00371 271836Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----006136 271839Z /43

O 271445Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6838
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0371

EXDIS

NAIROBI FOR MABASSADOR YOUNG

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, MZ, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MACHEL'S COMMENTS ON FRONT LINE MEETING

1. SUMMARY MACHEL WANTS UK AND US TO PROCEED WITH
CEASEFIRE TALKS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE IS CONFIDENT
WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT WITH PF ON THESE MATTERS.
HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTS WE MEET PROVATELY WITH THE PF TO
REACH AGREEMENT ON DETAILS PRIOR TO A FORMAL MEETING
END SUMMARY.

2. MACHEL SUMMONED UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND ME THIS
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MORNING TO GIVE US A BRIEF REPORT ON FRONT LINE MEETING
IN DAR . SERGIO VIEIRA AND DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF
PRESIDENCY LUIS HONWANA WERE PRESENT.

3. MACHEL SAID THE DAR DISCUSSIONS HAD CONCENTRATED ON
TWO ITEMS OF CONCERN TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THE
ANGLO AMERICAN PLAN AND THE INTERNAL ACCORD. THE FRONT

LINE APRESIDENTS WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE UK AND US STAND ON THE AAP. DO WE INTEND TO PURSUE IT OR NOT? WE MUST STATE PUBLICLY OUR INTENTIONS.

4. MACHEL SAID MOZAMBIQUE'S POSITION IS CLEAR. WHILE THE AAP HAS SHORT COMINGS AT THE SAME TIME IT CONTAINS MANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS, AND GPRM ACCEPTS IT AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. SO TOO HAS THE PF, THE OAU AND THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. IN MEETING WITH LWEEN AND ME ON FEBRUARY 10. MACHEL NOTED WE HAD SAID THAT UK AND US WERE READY TO CONTINUE MALTS TALKS. WHY HAD THERE NOT BEE SECOND MEETING? MACHEL SAID HE KNEW THAT MUGABE AND NKOMO WERE READY TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS. FOLLOWING CEASEFIRE TALKS, THE PF WILL MEET IN LARGER GATHERING TO DISCUSS CONST-UTIONAL ISSUES.

5. AT THIS POINT AMBASSADOR LEWEN NOTED THE NEGATIVE RESPONSES THAT UK AND US HAD RECEIVED AS REGARDS AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE. AND WONDERED WHAT MACHEL THOUGH THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR A MEETING WITH THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS, EVEN IF WE WERE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE PF ON CEASEFIRE MATTERS. LEWEN OBSERVED THAT THE SALISBURY PARTICIPANTS HAD SAID THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE ONLY AS A TEAM. MACHEL RESPONDED THAT PARTICIPATION OF INTERNAL NATIONALISTS WITH SMITH AS A TEAM MIGHT IN FACT FACILITATE A MEETING. HE URGED THE UK TO ASK MUGABE AND NKOMO IF THEY WOULD AGREE TO MEET WITH NEW SALISBURY GOVERN-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT. ALTHOUGH MACHEL DID NOT SAY SO, THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT HE FELT THE PF WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH SMITH, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE, PROVIDED THEY ATTENDED AS MEMBERS OF THE SMITH GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDED THESE TALKS FOLLOWED SEPARATE CEASEFIRE TALKS WITH THE PF.

6. I ASKED MACHEL IF HE FELT CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS WERE THE UK AND U.S. TO MEET WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON CEASEFIRE MATTERS. I RECALLED THAT IN OUR FEBRUARY 10 DISCUSSION, HE HAD AGREED WITH US THAT ANOTHER INCONCLUSIVE MEETING WITH THE PF WOULD ONLY BENEFIT SMITH. MACHEL WAS CONFIDENT THE TALKS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. BUT TO MAKE CERTAIN, HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE HAVE PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH MUGABE AND NKOMO BEFORE CALLING A FORMAL MEETING. THIS IS HOW FRELIMO HAD HANDLED THE MATTER WITH THE PORTUGUESE. MACHEL SAID THESE TALKS COULD TAKE PLACE IN MAPUTO, LUSAKA OR DAR.

7. AS REGARDS THE INTERNAL ACCORD, MACHEL SAID HE WANTED TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THIS IS NOT THE SOLUTION. ALL SMITH HAS DONE IS ENLARGED HIS ILLEGAL AND MINORITY GOVERNMENT BY TAKING IN THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS. HE HAS NO INTENTION OF GIVING UP POWER AND WILL CONTINUE HIS AGGRESSION AGAINST NEIGH-

BORING STATES. IN ORDER TO SAY IN POWER, SMITH HOPES TO TURN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE INTO AN IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE, PITTING EAST AGAINST THE WEST.

8. IN CONCLUSION, MACHEL ASKED US TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. WE ASSURED HIM WE WOULD AND THAT HIS VIEWS WOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

9. COMMENT. MACHEL WAS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY, BUT BUSINESSLIKE IN HIS PRESENTATION. NONE OF THE ACRIMONY TOWARD THE BRITISH, WHICH CHARACTERIZED HIS MEETING WITH PROFESSOR FOLTZ AND ME ON MARCH 21, WAS EVIDENT TODAY. IT WAS CLEAR THOUGH THAT MACHEL WANTS AND EXPECTS A STRAIGHTFORWARD REPLY FROM THE UK AND U.S. ON OUR INTENTIONS REGARDING THE AAP.
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10. MACHEL'S SUGGESTION THAT THE UK AND U.S. TALK PRIVATELY WITH MUGABE AND NKOMO BEFORE ANY FORMAL MEETING COULD GIVE US TIME TO DEFER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR INTENTIONS, SHOULD WE WISH TO DELAY SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT. FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE PF ON CEASEFIRE MATTERS IN OUR PRELIMINARY TALKS WOULD ALSO GIVE US A REASON--AND ONE THAT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY MACHEL --WHY WE WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH A FORMAL MEETING WITH THE PF. I BELIEVE WE COULD COUNT ON MACHEL'S HELP IN ARRANGING PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH THE PF, SHOULD WE WISH TO DO SO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MAPUTO00371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780133-0190
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780322/aaaaasqe.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3fbc12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3196282
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: MACHEL'S COMMENTS ON FRONT LINE MEETING
TAGS: PDEV, MZ, RH, (MACHEL, SAMORA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3fbc12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014